

King Murder Planned Here, Swann Asserts

Indictments of Several Persons, Including a Woman, Expected, He Announces

Federal Agents May Have Seen Shooting

Believe Auto Shadowing Means Followed His on Night of Crime

District Attorney Swann yesterday announced that his investigation into the mysterious death of Mrs. Maude A. King showed that the crimes of forgery, grand larceny and conspiracy to murder had been committed in New York, while the greater crime of murder had taken place in Concord, N. C., where Mrs. King was shot and killed on August 29.

Indictments against a number of persons, including a woman, will follow, according to the authorities here. The greatest secrecy was maintained as to the identity of the persons involved and the probable crimes for which each will be indicted.

Simultaneously with his announcement of his findings, Mr. Swann said that he was replying to State Solicitor Hayden Clement's call for assistance in the prosecution of the case in North Carolina by sending a party of half a dozen of his assistants to Concord. They will appear there in time for the reopened coroner's inquest, beginning on Monday.

Dooling to Lead Party

In the party will be Assistant District Attorney John T. Dooling, in charge of the investigation in this city; Dr. Otto H. Schultze, District Attorney's physician; Captain Jones, pistol expert of the Police Department, and several detectives connected with Judge Swann's office. Some of the documents seized in the raid on the apartments of Gaston B. Means, Mrs. King's confidential agent, at 1153 Park Avenue, will also be taken South, although the bulk of the papers will be held here for the prosecution.

District Attorney Swann made known the fact that a representative of Chief Flynn of the United States Secret Service had conferred with him. He has received an answer from him, in which he cordially accepts my offer, and asks me to send the men working on the crime here to get the object of our scrutiny," said Mr. Swann.

Solicitor Accepts Assistance

"I will send to State Solicitor Clement, of North Carolina, last week offering all the facilities of this office to aid in his prosecution of the case, if I could do so without appearing to be in any way connected with the case," said Mr. Swann.

"The material we have here, and which is at the service of Mr. Clement, will show preparation for the greater crime of murder, which evidence indicates was committed down in North Carolina. It goes through the various steps, which we cannot yet disclose, including the forgery, larceny and conspiracy leading up to the shooting."

With all the ends of the investigation about to be centered at Concord, Assistant District Attorney Dooling yesterday uncovered here still more documents of Means, indicating his devious methods of exerting his influence over Mrs. King. It is shown that Means wrote letters to Mrs. King, then in Concord, in which he urged her to Washington or "somewhere on Chesapeake Bay," on a mysterious mission for her, at the same time, as it is known, he was inducing the epistles on his typewriter in the Park Avenue apartment.

Means Influence Strong

Evidence further showed that Means induced Mrs. King to use his influence over the transfer powers of attorney, through the use of which any person could have manipulated the wealthy woman's estate represented in stocks without an accounting of any sort. He also attempted to have Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. King's mother, declared incompetent, in order that he might handle her affairs.

Mrs. Robinson was beneficiary of a \$400,000 trust agreement, which was afterward revoked. The aged woman now declares that she never signed the revocation, and brands her alleged signature to it a forgery.

Henry Dietrich, father-in-law of Afton Means, Gaston's brother, broke down and wept early yesterday morning, after a ten-hour session with Mr. Dooling in his office, in the Criminal Court Building. A statement was given from him during the long examination is considered of vital importance. Mr. Dooling said of his testimony:

"The unfolding of this interesting story, partly consciously and partly unconsciously, in answer to questions and documents I showed him. When I showed him just a part of what I had here he was amazed and gasped. Some of the things were disclosed to him for the first time, I believe. Finally he broke down and wept when he left the office."

Says Means Was Watched

Mr. Dooling was told of the report that an automobile, in which was at least one Federal agent, was following the car carrying Means, Mrs. King, Afton Means and Captain Bingham on the night of the shooting. At first Mr. Dooling nodded his head affirmatively, but added:

"That phase of the case is too important to discuss, and I will neither confirm it nor give any details."

It was also the impression at the District Attorney's office that Means had been under the surveillance of Federal officials for about two weeks before the shooting in connection with his propaganda work, and that a possible witness to the shooting might have been numbered among the passengers of the second motor along the road to the Blackwell spring, where the shooting occurred.

Most amazing among the documents found in the Means apartment were a series of letters sent by Means from his Park Avenue apartment to Mrs. King in North Carolina. Typewriter experts yesterday announced that the letters were written on Gaston Bullock Means's machine, now in the hands of the District Attorney.

These missives, together with others

marked "Personal and Confidential," were sent by Means to be opened and read by three persons in North Carolina, before being "stuck under Mrs. King's door. Means gave elaborate instructions that the letters were to be opened, read, and their source of transportation kept a mystery. His instructions in one letter are:

"Seal it up carefully and let it slip under Maude's door, without her, under any circumstances, knowing where it comes from, in order that in her own mind she can create a mystery about it, and she will think I have some close connections there at a hotel that enable me to have such matters delivered to her without any difficulty, and never let her know just how the letter got under the door."

I am not writing this letter by hand because I am in a great hurry and, in addition, because I want to keep a copy of just what I have written." District Attorney Swann will today open the safety deposit box of Mrs. King at the Thirty-fourth Street Safe Deposit Company, in which valuable documents are expected to be found. The box will be opened in the presence of a representative of the State Controller, interested in a possible inheritance tax, and representatives of the bank, Mrs. Robinson, the Police Department and the District Attorney's office.

Means Had Been Employed By Berlin to Get Data on Submarines, Friends Say

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—Gaston B. Means was employed by a representative of the German government in 1915 to obtain information regarding the construction of submarines for foreign governments and the attitude of the State Department regarding the shipment of these boats to belligerents, it was stated here today by friends of Means, who recall a visit made by him to Washington two years ago.

At that time he appeared to be well informed concerning the activities of Charles M. Schwab, who came here to confer with Secretary Bryan and Secretary Daniels supposedly in regard to the propriety of building submarine parts for the British government. It is said that Means received a salary of between \$10,000 and \$12,000 a year from Germany for this work.

There is no intimation that Means's work at that time was illegitimate, as the United States was not then at war. He has not been in the employ of the German government since the United States entered the war, it is said.

But when Means was here he appeared to be usually well posted on what was being done in this country and Canada to provide the enemies of Germany with boats. He is said to have remarked that Germany had provided \$300,000 to induce Americans to work in this country and even went so far as to offer newspaper men here positions with papers friendly to the German government. It was reported here at that time that Germany already had purchased one influential American newspaper and was about to buy more.

Senators Gronna, Weeks and Poinsett, and Representative Madden, dexter and Revere, who names appeared on memoranda found in Means's apartment labeled "Republicans and Progressives to see," denied that they knew Means or had called on him. Representative Madden, of Illinois, declared it "wouldn't be well" for Means if he ever did call on him.

An investigation into Means's past life, disclosed that after his graduation from the University of North Carolina he became a newspaper reporter and later worked in the New York City office of the United States Secret Service, where he was known as "Gastone," one of the wealthiest cotton manufacturers in the country. Later he went to Chicago to become a detective and became known as "Gastone" in the city.

Friends here say that he had a fight in a New York hotel with an Englishman said to have been employed by the British government to follow and report on him.

U. S. Attorney Takes Hand In Means Investigation

SALISBURY, N. C., Sept. 18.—United States District Attorney W. C. Hamner came to Salisbury to-night and immediately went into conference with Solicitor Clement and Federal Agent C. D. Ambrose, of the Department of Justice, regarding the investigation into the activities and affairs of Gaston B. Means.

Mr. Hamner's visit is said to have been the result of the failure of Means to comply with the order of Federal Judge Boyd to the satisfaction of Attorney Johnston, who represents the Central Bank and Trust Company, of Asheville, named receiver for Mrs. King's estate. Last week Means made the assertion that he had between \$50,000 and \$60,000 in cash belonging to Mrs. King, but he denied having this amount when United States Marshal McKenzie served the government's injunction on him.

Special Agent Ambrose, who has been in close touch with every movement made by Means and Mrs. J. B. Foraker, Jr., to-day explained the reason for the latter's visit to Concord at this time.

"Mr. Foraker came to see Means and to demand financial aid of him," he said. It is not known whether or not Means has agreed to the demand, but it is known that it is at her own request that the prosecutor and Federal agents will question her.

Plan Accountants' Library

Institute Members Raise \$85,000 in Half Hour

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—Members of the American Institute of Accountants at their annual meeting here today raised more than \$85,000 within half an hour as a fund to establish a national accountants' statistical library, the first of its kind in this country.

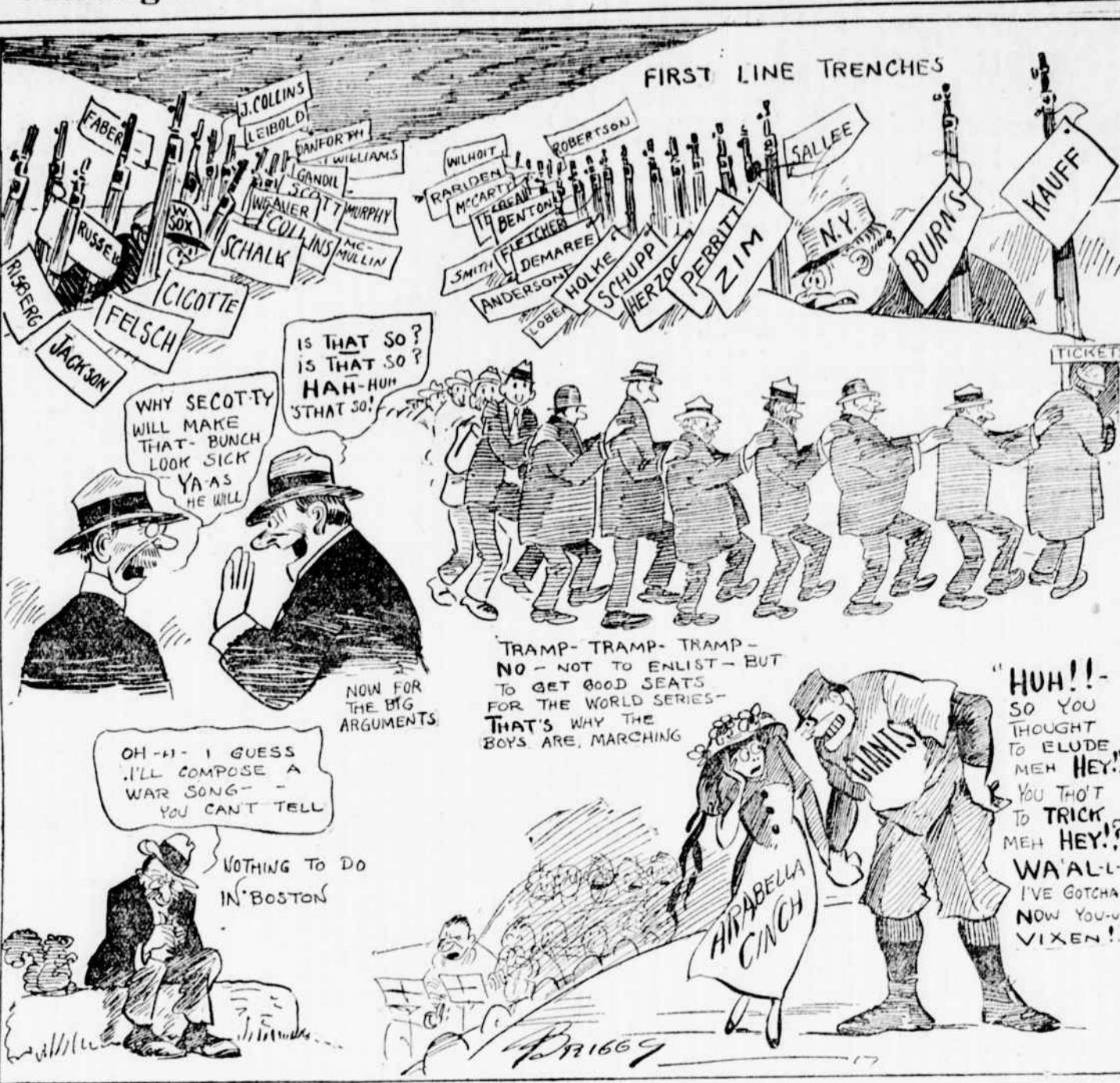
Although an endowment of \$150,000 is necessary for the most effective operation of the library, the establishment is now said to be assured. Among the principal gifts thus far have been \$25,000 from George O. May and partners and \$15,000 from Elijah W. Sellers and partners, both of New York.

Record Price for Steers

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Sept. 18.—Fifty steers selling at \$17 a hundred pounds today established the highest price ever paid west of the Mississippi River. The cattle averaged 1,447 pounds.

These missives, together with others

Cinching It



Primaries To-day Expected to Bring Out Heavy Vote

Republican Landslide for Mitchel Against Bennett Predicted

On the eve of to-day's primary election there was little in the situation to excite either Fusion or Tammany leaders. The few contests in eight were not worrying the leaders in either camp. The only question which afforded discussion was how large the vote would be for the regular Republican-Fusion and Tammany organization candidates. There was no question as to their nominations.

The polls open at 3 o'clock to-day and close at 9 p. m. Each election district in the Assembly districts throughout the five boroughs constitutes a primary district, at the polling place of which officially enrolled voters of the district of each political party may vote.

The polling places are located the same as at the general elections. Those who did not enroll prior to the election last fall are not entitled to vote at the primaries, but they can vote in the general election on November 6, provided they register on any of the appointed registration days, which are from October 8 to October 13, inclusive.

Heavy Vote Predicted

Both the Republican and Tammany district leaders last night predicted an unusually heavy primary vote. In the case of Judge John P. Hyland, Tammany candidate for Mayor; Charles L. Craig, candidate for Controller, and Sheriff Alfred E. Smith, candidate for President of the Board of Aldermen, who are not opposed in the Democratic primaries, a large vote would be purely complimentary. The Tammany district workers have been striving to get out as large a vote as possible to show that the Murphy organization is enthusiastically backing its candidates.

The Fusion leaders expect an overwhelming vote for Mayor Mitchel in the Republican primaries, as against ex-Senator William M. Bennett, who is contesting his nomination. The Mitchel-Bennett contest is the only city-wide contest in the primaries.

The Republican district leaders worked quietly but hard to sound Bennett under. They are not inclined to give him more than 20,000 Republican votes in greater New York out of two thousand colored people at the Mother Zion Church, at 130th Street and Lenox Avenue, and another large meeting of colored voters at the Palace Casino, 135th Street and Madison Avenue.

The Bennett followers contended that there had been a decided shifting in the colored vote during the last few days from Mayor Mitchel to the straight Republican candidate.

In his speeches last night Bennett made predictions which were considered rash by the Fusion leaders. "I confidently predict that I and my associates, Messrs. Wall and Wiley," he said, "will win the primary in Richmond by a vote of 5 to 1. We will sweep Kings County by a vote of 2 to 1, and we will carry Queens County by a large majority, and we shall carry the Bronx and Manhattan by satisfactory majorities. Mr. Mitchel cannot carry a single borough, no matter how much money his friends spend."

Luther B. Little, campaign manager

A. R. Conkling Dies by Fall; Friends Think He Ended Life

Body of Lawyer, Separated Five Years From Wife and Accused by His Daughters of Misusing Trust Fund, Is Found in Courtyard of Home

An investigation of the affairs of Alfred R. Conkling, wealthy lawyer, who is supposed to have committed suicide yesterday, will be begun to-day to ascertain the status of the \$500,000 estate of his daughters, which was in his charge as guardian and trustee.

The body of Mr. Conkling, a former Assemblyman and nephew of the late Senator Roscoe Conkling, was found in the courtyard in the rear of his home at 157 East Seventy-third Street, at 7 o'clock yesterday morning. A passerby saw it and notified Mrs. Mary Stebbins, the lawyer's housekeeper. The police said Mr. Conkling had been dead for several hours, and had leaped from a fourth story window in the rear of his home.

Worry Over His Family

Worry concerning his differences with his family and depression as a result of the fact that he was to have appeared to-morrow before Mirabeau L. Towns, referee, appointed by Surrogate Johnson, for examination on charges made by his daughters, the Misses Muriel and Olga Conkling, that he had mismanaged the funds in his care, are believed by friends to have caused Conkling to end his life.

Max D. Steuer, who represented the daughters in proceedings to have Mr. Conkling relieved of his charge of their estate, announced yesterday that he would go before the Surrogate to-day and ask that the lawyer's widow be appointed their guardian. Mrs. Conkling, who was Miss Ethel Johnson, daughter of Eastman Johnson, portrait painter, was in Washington with Miss Vivian Conkling, a third daughter, at the time of her husband's death. She is expected to return to this city to-day. Muriel and Olga Conkling are in the White Mountains, and are expected to return to-day.

Mr. Steuer yesterday said that Mrs. Conkling made guardian of her daughters' estate. The thing to do now, of course, is to find out whether Mr. Conkling left a will and ascertain what he has done with his daughters' estate. When Mrs. Conkling returns she will give me authority, I take it, to proceed with that investigation."

Separated From Wife

The dead lawyer, who had offices in 80 Maiden Lane, was separated from his wife five years ago. His daughters have resided with their mother. In June of this year the daughters started, through Mr. Steuer, proceedings to have Mr. Conkling removed from their guardian under the estate of their uncle, George Lorillard Ronalds, who left the girls the bulk of his fortune.

The young women alleged that Mr. Conkling had overcharged them in certain matters, among them a trip to San Francisco and Honolulu, undertaken by the daughters, with their father as guardian.

Miss Muriel, who is nineteen years old, alleged in the charges that Mr. Conkling had doubled the charges for the trip against their estate. The allegation was also made that he had overcharged the estate for clothing, and that he had mismanaged the funds of the estate. Conkling denied the allegations, and Mr. Towns was appointed referee to hear testimony on both sides and report back to the Surrogate.

In discussing Mr. Conkling's death, Alfred C. Cox, Jr., of the law firm of Tomlinson, Cox & Tomlinson, which represented him in the Surrogate's Court, said:

"Mr. Conkling had been depressed all summer. His daughters' action distressed him greatly. He had his own ideas as to how much money young people should spend, but his girls wanted no limitations placed on them. It was his desire to conserve their income for them that led to their action against him. Everything he did was solely in their interest."

Mr. Conkling was in his sixty-seventh year. He was an alderman in 1887 and 1888 and an Assemblyman in 1892, a member of the Metropolitan, Republican and Tuxedo clubs and the author of a biography of his distinguished kinsman, Roscoe Conkling.

Farmers Urge Price-Fixing on All Necessaries

Continued from page 1

time to meet the brokers, but not the farmers. "There is so much money on the under side," interjected a farmer, with a strong Swedish accent.

"Hoover means all right. Keep right at his elbow, and he will see things as you see them," continued Townley.

"But how can you make a man see things if he doesn't want to?" asked the Swede.

The Difference in Patriotism

After the ensuing laughter Townley proceeded, getting more and more emphatic as he warmed up, and at times just touching the edge of that chilly patriotism that was in the air of the Non-Partisan League until it saw a light and determined to come out strong for patriotism. He said he was informed that the representatives of the Department of Justice were in the auditorium to inspect the patriotism of the meeting.

They had come to the right place if they were looking for patriotism. After they had done inspecting the farmers he would like them to look for patriotism among the profiteers, in the leather trust, in the iron, steel, munition and coal industries.

"There is a great difference between our patriotism," he said, "the patriotism of the men who tell that the profiteers may make four billions of dollars, and the patriotism of the men who make the billings. While the farmers and other producers have been raising crops to feed the armies of liberty, making ships and munitions and implements of war, a lot of gentlemen have been spending their ample leisure in announcing their patriotism. When you work sixteen hours a day for liberty and democracy you haven't much time or will to wave the flag."

"So they say the farmers are not patriotic. But as a farmer, I am not robbed from the workers will pay for a lot of patriotic announcing. But now you have taken a day off to announce your patriotism. Yet you cannot do as much announcing as they do, those men who leave the production of all things to us. Those men whose skins are white and soft, and whose hands are round and smooth have more time to wave the flag than we have."

"We were put in as much time waving it as they do, the whole world waving it. Their kept press are very lavish of patriotism, but too much of it comes from money stolen from us. Their patriotism is a patriotism of blood. It proves they are not patriots. And if they are not patriots what in hell are they? Who has a German helmet? Place it upon their heads, and you will see the patriotism of the profiteers. It is based upon justice, not upon robbery."

"I want to say to you and to the newspaper men here that if the papers will tell the truth about this damnable thing as you and I see it, the profiteers will have to go to the business, because they can't stand the breath of truth. No criminal can. When the life of liberty and democracy, when the life of this nation hangs but by a thread, these are the men who talk to us of patriotism and call themselves patriots. And then when a farmer's boy complains because his wheat is marked down 20 cents a bushel because it contains five pounds of barley they brand him as a pro-German. My answer is that with the aid of the boys who are marching to the battle front we may yet defeat the representatives of autocracy in our midst as well as abroad."

"We say to the profiteers: 'Government price fixing is all right. Come on in, the water is fine. We do not ask to fix the price of what you sell us according to the price we fix on what we sell you. We ask you to sell to us according to the price you have fixed on what we sell to you.' I believe there is enough patriotism in the country to see a square deal to-day. I do not believe that America has been Prussianized yet."

"It is our duty to support the government in its efforts to fix prices, and if it were not for the patriotism of iron and steel and coal and flour we would have a square deal to-day. Let the government make those gentlemen produce without profit, as it is making us do, and they will quickly say to the government: 'Here, take

these things. We can't use them.' And then they shall have government ownership. Their patriotism is of the kind that it takes war profits to make work. After these fine gentlemen have been trimmed, I will have some more patriotic men, and the country will be ahead that much."

By BRIGGS

these things. We can't use them.' And then they shall have government ownership. Their patriotism is of the kind that it takes war profits to make work. After these fine gentlemen have been trimmed, I will have some more patriotic men, and the country will be ahead that much."

"It will grade about No. 4, at that, but it will not be 'feed wheat' or 'reduced,' like the kind they have now. When you take the profit out of war, you will be interested in keeping this war for liberty and democracy going any longer than is necessary to save them. If it is right to conscript your son's life, it is right to conscript his life and steel that God made."

The conference was presided over by Governor Lynn J. Frazier of North Dakota, himself the product of all the Non-Partisan League took him, unknown to the public, as the secretary of the conference. He is a dark, deep-chested, heavy-browed, square-jawed man, college educated, but showing in every line of his face and figure that he is a son of the soil.

Defends Farmers Loyalty

In addressing the conference he declared that there is no question of the patriotism of the farmers and laboring men. "They are loyal and patriotic, and will defend the Stars and Stripes to the last ditch. The purpose of this conference is to put that square deal up to the food administration. The farmers have had poor crops for two years, and the price of \$2.20 for wheat, while a good price in other times, is too low for this year. If the price of wheat is to be fixed, then we ask the government to go down the line and fix the price on all the necessities of life. I believe the government is going to do this. I believe there is patriotism enough in the country and among the wealthier classes and the Eastern people to see that the poorer classes get a square deal."

The underlying idea of the league of organizing all the farmers and laboring men, uniting with organized labor to dominate the nation in the interests of the producers was voiced by Governor Frazier. The league was the product of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor. There were brief speeches by W. A. Wheeler, of the Bureau of Markets of the Department of Agriculture; J. D. Ream, master of the State Grange of Nebraska; and C. H. Gustafson, president of the Nebraska Union of Farmers.

In consequence of intimations that the league was disloyal and financed by interests opposed to the government, President Townley had issued a letter to the United States District Attorney Jacques, in which he invites the Department of Justice to examine the books and records of the league and make public any or all facts it finds in the following challenge:

"We hereby challenge the National Security League, the National Defence League, the Navy League and similar organizations to make the same offer at his elbow, and he will see things as you see them," continued Townley.

Baer Opposes Profitteering

Representative John M. Baer, of the North Dakota Representative cartoonist, the Non-Partisan League's first elected Representative, speaking to-night, complained that there was a lack of influence of little people at Washington. "If some poor woman came down here, and asked for the release of her husband, who had been in the army, and they would look her up, but they have fine reception rooms and plush chairs for the representatives of the interests," he said.

Mr. Baer did some rapid sketching on a board, and then he asked a number of the kindly treatment the representatives of interests—these big fat hog—get at the hands of the Washington profiteers. "Wealth must and should be for the world war, or we'll know the reason why, and if your Senators and Representatives don't do it now, send some down here two years from now, and we'll see what they do."

George B. Fischer, secretary of the Springfield (Ill.) Typographical Union, made a rather brief speech, in which he reviewed the Springfield (Ill.) strike and declared the charge of profiteering was unfounded. He said that the means of muddying the water, while fighting autocracy abroad, he said, it would be as well to fight it at home.

Wheat at \$2.20 a Bushel Gives Farmer Net Profit Of \$1.41, Declares Expert

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—G. E. Call, of the State College of Agriculture in Kansas, recognized as one of the best experts on wheat in the entire country, estimates that on the average the American farmer who grows wheat with the market price fixed at \$2.20, with the price fixed at \$2.20 per bushel, the average net profit, on this basis, would be \$1.41 per bushel.

Call's estimate is based on an average value of \$48 per acre for the wheat land of the country, an average crop of fourteen bushels to the acre, an average cost of 78.7 cents per bushel, and an average cost of \$16.96 per acre throughout the country. The rich wheat lands of some states produce even twice the average estimated by Professor Call, while in other states the average is away below fourteen bushels to the acre.

The conference of beet sugar interests continued here to-day. At a late hour no final agreement had been reached. Substantially 10 per cent of the beet sugar crop is to be taken from any binding agreement, calculated to bring down the price to a point where they contend it will interfere with their contracts to pay sugar beet growers a price of 10 cents a bushel for this year's crop.

Representatives of the fruit and vegetable shipping industry to-day conferred with food administration officials concerning matters of general interest in relation to the food control law.

The distribution division of the food administration has perfected plans by which the salesmen of the country, particularly those representing vegetable and fruit, are to be organized for the purpose of spreading the various conservation measures. Each of the 40,000 salesmen engaged in this line of work will be asked to pledge himself to urge upon retailers and distributors the various conservation measures to save men, food, fuel, energy and materials for war uses.

More than a score of firms engaged in the manufacture of paper products were represented at a conference held to-day with food administration officials. The principal matter discussed was to what extent paper may be satisfactorily substituted for tin in a country where tin is so scarce. Questions relating to the legality of actions taken by the United States Grain Corporation in fixing the price of wheat were propounded to the President to-day by Representative Stephen M. McKelvey, who contends that the price fixing arrangement is clearly in violation of the law.

Among other things, Representative McKelvey contended to know why wheat producers were compelled to bear all the loss occasioned by controlled markets when producers of corn, oats, rye and barley have the benefits of competitive markets.

By BRIGGS

Business Urges Maximum Price For War Labor

Convention of Chamber of Commerce Declares It Necessary Step

Lane Says Germans Must Repair Damage

Secretary of Interior Asserts Industry Holds Success in Its Hands

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Sept. 18.—Legislation fixing a maximum price for all labor which creates war necessities was recommended by members of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States to-day as a radical but necessary step in government price control. The members of the chamber are gathered here for a special war convention.

The recommendation came after two representatives of President Wilson's Cabinet had announced that the United States would fight on until "Germany would play the game in accordance with the 1917 rules." The broad intimation from Secretary Franklin K. Lane that Germany would be called upon to repair all damage she had wrought in the war brought members of the organization to their feet in a storm of approval.

The messages of the two spokesmen for the national Administration were the high lights in the opening day of the commerce body's war convention. A. E. Albrecht, of Philadelphia, is the man who suggested the fixing of maximum prices for labor, and, on gaining the approval of other delegates, announced that he would later introduce resolutions "to fix the price of labor at the same time the price is fixed for the commodity in which such labor enters."

Warns War Gambling

Mr. Lane praised these business men who have aided the Administration in its efforts at price fixing, but said that little sympathy would be shown to the man who endeavored to make a profit out of the present trials of the nation.

"There isn't a man of you here but holds the possibility of failure of this war in the hollow of his hand," he said. "Let no one of you, being tempted to take all that the traffic will bear, rise to temptation and turn himself into a I. W. W."

"When it comes to fixing a profit, think of the boy in khaki and think what his attitude will be. Think of the attitude in after years, when he might say, 'I went to the front and took my chances, while father stayed home and made a fortune.'"

Secretary of War Baker, introduced a resolution of the Council of National Defence, referred to the many difficulties the government had experienced in dealing with business interests, but the impression that day was that the stakes to smooth sailing was past.

There was a certain distrust on the part of the business so far as the government is concerned before the war. Mr. Baker said, "and these seven men, who are the business leaders of the Council of National Defence, instantly summoned business to the aid of the government. Then there poured into Washington literally hundreds of thousands of offers from business men throughout the country."

Democracy Safe Here

"The hearts of our people," he continued, "were pulsing with the desire for service, and I found it to be the desire of the people which the President wanted made safe for the world was safe in America at least."

A plea for the creation of a war board, such as handles the purchasing of the government, was made by Mr. Albrecht, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, in a speech which was applauded on cooperation with the Council of National Defence.

"The Chamber of Commerce," Mr. Albrecht said, "are informed, intends to spend \$19,000,000 for itself and its allies during the next year. When we consider that the entire gross production of the United States Steel Corporation and its subsidiaries is \$533,000,000 a year, it will be seen that the government will place upon business a demand twenty times as great as the annual turnover of that great corporation."

Taking up the work of the War Industries Board, he said there is a question whether this board can go beyond the purpose for which it was created and meet the industrial problems arising from the government's purchases of munitions in England."

"Our committee advocates the creation of a war board similar to the Munitions Board in England," he added.

He said that the civilian advisory commission to the Council of National Defence should be actually in the service of the government, with government officials, and not merely advisers; that they should be doing the actual purchasing for the government, determining prices and controlling priorities as well as distribution.

"Chaos exists in business today," Mr. Albrecht said. "The order must be brought out of this chaos if we are to win the war. The price control committee—Wall Street men, farmer, laborer and merchant—is unanimous in this opinion."

The situation in Russia and the Russian government in establishing a stable government were presented at the convention to-night by the Russian Ambassador, Count Bakhmeteff, the Russian Ambassador, and Charles Edward Russell, of the American Embassy, who recently returned from Russia.

"It is to America that Russia is looking with the heartiest of hopes," said the ambassador. "Russia is giving us that great credit in arms, but to her young sister republic, her ally in spirit, her future faithful friend, Russia's greatest material need, materials and ships."

By BRIGGS